

Portland, April 29th. 1860.

Dear Bush

I propose to deal strictly with the truth. I wrote you last week - somewhat. I dont know whether it would all do or not. Since then the great speaking between Shirl & David has "occured". There was a large audience congregated at Stewarts Theatre on Saturday afternoon to hear the Candidates & great things were expected from Shirl the "great Orator" of the Lane society. Logan opened the ball with the best speech he ever made - this his enemies concede - he took broad Douglas ground - popular sovereignty clear up to the handle - referred to Shirl as the candidate of a portion of the Democratic party of the State Challenger dared & dified Shirl to take same position on the Cincinnati platform as expounded by Douglas, or as interpreted by the Administration, Brown & Davis. After Logan concluded his speech which was received throughout with much enthusiasm. Shirl mounted the rostrum to reply. His appearance was in his favor & there was an evident desire to receive him favorably. He opened with diffident & became more embarrassed as he proceeded. In fact he addressed the house as "Gentlemen of the Jury before he had made much progress in his speech, if such it must be called, and which was made up - what there was of it, in defunct & abstract principlly & issues, most of which has been dead for a large & moreover number of years. He met Logan on not one single point or argument that he made & it was indeed humilliating to his friends to bear witness as they were compelled to do, to this wretched abortion & miserable & disgraceful failure. Disgust was depicted on every "Phys" of the Lane society, & execrations were uttered by the same loud, deep & unegmoccally. I will do Mr. Shirl the justice today, parenthetically, that he was not under the influence of strong drink, as was alledged by some of his would be friends by of extermination for the fearful letting down of "Delasions Champion."

Immediately after the speaking Col. Shirl became at once Non este, having made a bee line for his bedroom where chagrined & crestfallen he threw himself upon his bed where he remained a prey to his own bitter mortification & disgust till this afternoon, when he was unearthed by one or two acquaintances who had been seeking his whereabouts for the previous twelve hours. When approached by these gentlemen he anticipated any observations on their part by remarking nervously that he was aware he had made a wretched failure. This vouches for his happy appreciation of his own imate ability as a stump orator, & belies any suspicion of vain egotism on his part. It is a matter of congratulation among democrats to know this non-ination of Shirl by Delazon Smith is without authority of law, & will terminate in a general burlesque on the Lane society.

Poor Shirl has disapointed the expectation of his friends - They expected something, and accordingly they did'nt get it. As a specimen of forensic oratory he is below mediocrity - He cannot make a speech about politics, simply because he do'nt know anything about

the practical living issues of the day, but I fully admit that he can read beautifully out of a book. He read a good deal from a volume he had in his hand & his melodious voice was quite pleasant to listen to. It is said that he reads poetry beautifully, & I have no doubt of it. Like Gen. Lane when he ordered his sancha pawza Gibbin to "inject a little Greece & Carthage" into his famous letter to the Nationals in '58 so Delusion must "inject" into poor Shirl some of his extra "Demosthenese thunder & Ciceroneous eloquence." An instrument might be made for the purpose out of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch boiler iron.

Perhaps old Pengra would like to have the above as it is more suitable for his paper - I am going to Vancouver tomorrow with Hummason. I got him to write you the other day.

Tell Nes to post up Hummaspa fully relative to that matter - Mac & Norris will vote for Shirl as against Logan, but wont work.

Mc Cormick is all right - he will give the whole thing h - ll from the start -

Yours in haste

The Major